

require Zach to travel more than 100,000 miles, visit approximately 40 states, and participate in an international experience tour to Japan. Zach will also be responsible for providing personal growth and leadership training for students, setting policies that shape the future of the organization, and promoting agricultural literacy.

Currently, Zach attends school at the University of Missouri in Columbia. There, he is involved in many student organizations including College of Agriculture Student Development board, MU Alumni Association Student Board, Agriculture Economics Club, Collegiate Farm Bureau, College of Agriculture Learning Improvement Committee, and the Missouri Department of Education Preparatory Taskforce.

Zach has been very active as a member of FFA. Over the years, Zach has been involved he has participated in a Supervised Agricultural Experience, which required producing and selling registered Angus seed stock bulls. Zach was also selected as a state winner and national semi-finalist in prepared speaking, and was named State Star in Agricultural Placement.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Zach Kinne for his accomplishments with the Future Farmers of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of President for the 2007–2008 calendar year.

INTRODUCTION OF THE WILDFIRE PREVENTION ACT

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will significantly enhance the ability of the American people to protect their homes and property from dangerous wildfires. This crucial legislation will augment our fire emergency preparedness by eliminating burdensome government rules and regulations rather than creating new ones. More and bigger government is not the solution to the challenges we face and my legislation gives the American people the opportunity to take the initiative in protecting themselves and their property.

We have all witnessed the destruction and devastation wrought by the recent fires in southern California. According to the latest reports, 518,021 acres have burned and over 3,500 structures have been damaged or destroyed. Thousands of families are now left homeless and hundreds of thousands more were forced to evacuate their homes as the fires threatened. While our brave first responders performed as outstandingly in this crisis as we have come to expect, these events have made it increasingly clear that our government has not been providing citizens with the tools necessary to protect themselves and has relied excessively on a large and unresponsive bureaucracy.

I am sad to report that current laws and regulations make it difficult, if not altogether impossible, for private property owners to clear brush and create fire breaks that might save their homes in the event of a wildfire. Intrusive federal regulations, such as the Endangered Species Act, discourage, and in some cases

prohibit, property owners from modifying their property to better prepare for wildfires. Our misguided policies have placed special interests above the all-important right and obligation of homeowners and property owners to prepare themselves for natural disasters. We know intrusive and bloated government is always a problem, but in a fire emergency, it can be deadly and destructive.

My legislation, the Wildfire Prevention Act, works by empowering citizens rather than bureaucrats. The Wildfire Prevention Act makes it clear that no Federal law will prevent private property owners, or local communities that manage public land, from clearing brush or making other modifications to their property for the purpose of creating fire breaks in order to protect their lives and their property.

Madam Speaker, this legislation is a step in the right direction in providing property owners with the resources they need to protect themselves. I am proud to introduce the Wildfire Prevention Act and request my colleagues give this important legislation their utmost consideration.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF NON QUINCY ADAMS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and indeed the entire state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend. I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to memory of Mr. Non Quincy Adams.

A native and resident of Mobile, Mr. Adams graduated from Murphy High School and attended Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific theater of operation aboard the USS George Clymer and attained the rank of lieutenant junior grade.

After the war, he received degrees in business and law from the University of Alabama. Starting his career as a teenager with First National Bank in 1940, he returned to Mobile after college to practice law. Over the years, he held positions in the trust and commercial areas. During the 1970s, Mr. Adams rose through the ranks to become a member of the board of directors. Later, he became president and in just 4 years, chief executive in 1982. After the bank merged with AmSouth Bank, he was named chairman of AmSouth's Southern region.

In 1974, he was elected to the board of directors of Loyal American Life Insurance Co., and he later became the chairman and chief executive officer of the Modern Banking Association of Alabama. In 1988, Mr. Adams ran for a seat on the Mobile County school board and served a term as the District 2 commissioner. He also served as a director of both the Industrial Development Board of the city of Mobile and the Business Council of Alabama.

Along with his business associations, Mr. Adams served as director of the Mobile Area Council of Boy Scouts and was a trustee of the YMCA. He also served as the director of the Exploremore and was chairman of the Keep Mobile Beautiful Commission. During the 1980s, he was significantly involved with the tree preservation, beautification and revitaliza-

tion of Bienville Square. Mr. Adams was a deacon and lifelong member of First Baptist Church of Mobile. In 1990, he was bestowed the honor of Mobilian of the Year.

There is no doubt—Mr. N. Q. Adams' contributions to Mobile and the state of Alabama will be long remembered. He loved life and lived it to the fullest, and his passing marks a tremendous loss for all of south Alabama. He will be deeply missed by many, most especially his wife of 54 years, Eran Jobe Adams; his sister, Dora Lee Davidson; his son, Samuel Russell Adams; his daughter, Laura Aline Adams; his granddaughter; and his great-grandson; as well as countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers go with them all in this difficult time.

HONORING LARRY MCCARTHY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great Californian. Larry McCarthy has served as president of the California Taxpayers' Association since 1989, building the association into a powerful force for the taxpayers of the Golden State, and conducting detailed policy research that has helped shaped the laws of my great State.

Larry McCarthy has advocated on behalf of taxpaying residents and entrepreneurs as president of the California Tax Foundation and as chairman of the National Taxpayers Conference, a nationwide organization of state taxpayer associations. Larry also was the lead advocate and strategist for two \$300 million unemployment insurance tax reductions in the early 1980s and a complete refinance of the California unemployment insurance system in 1985. Larry also played a major role in strengthening the economy, helping businesses prosper and creating new employment opportunities for Californians.

As research director of Cal-Tax, he supervised extensive research projects on local government finance in California, winning a national award for research on the use of benefit assessments in California after passage of Proposition 13. Early in his career in California and in Washington State, Larry McCarthy authored publications called Citizens Guide to Local Government Budgeting to help individuals become involved in the complicated budget processes of cities, counties and school districts.

Larry's success as the leader of Cal-Tax is reflected by the dedication and devotion of his staff, the majority of whom have served with him for more than 20 years. He has also distinguished himself as a strong family man, dedicated to his wife, Sandy, and their three children, Steven, Michelle and Christine.

Madam Speaker, Larry McCarthy is fighting valiantly against cancer, maintaining his sense of humor and drawing upon his strong faith in God to battle the disease. The people of California have been blessed to have Larry McCarthy on their side; we salute him for his dedication to improving California and our Nation, and for his achievements on behalf of the hard-working taxpayers of California.